



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

August 10, 2005

## **ICE NABS 11 ILLEGAL ALIENS IN EASTERN PUERTO RICO**

*Undocumented aliens allegedly worked on construction projects on the island of Culebra*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, acting on information provided by an anonymous caller, today arrested 11 undocumented migrants in the small island of Culebra off the eastern coast of Puerto Rico.

ICE agents in Fajardo, Puerto Rico traveled to the nearby island to follow up on an allegation that a group of undocumented Dominican nationals were residing inside two cargo containers near the Costa Bonita Resort and several other locations throughout the island. Allegedly, the illegal migrants worked on construction projects throughout the island of Culebra without authorization to do so.

The following illegal migrants were apprehended by ICE.

- Trinidad Fernando Aponte Perez
- Juan Martinez Mejias
- Juan Ramon Cabrera
- Ramon Elpidio Toribio
- Cristian Vazquez Arcela
- Ignacio Lora
- Santiago Pyando Muñoz
- William Antonio Rodriguez
- Jesus De la Cruz De la Cruz
- Eric Gonzalez Gonzalez
- Ramon Garcia Mena

“It is the responsibility of ICE to enforce the immigration and customs laws of the United States and to ensure that those who are not authorized to reside and work here are removed from the country,” said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. “There are legal means to come to the United States and we will simply not tolerate those who try to circumvent the system in total disregard of the law.”

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Black Hawk helicopter transported the migrants to the main island of Puerto Rico where they were processed and placed in removal proceedings. They will remain in ICE custody until their deportation to the Dominican Republic.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*